

Peter Charles L' Enfant to Thomas Jefferson, March 12, 1802, with Memorial, from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital. Edited by Saul K. Padover.

L'Enfant to Jefferson

City of Washington March 12th 1802

Sir

Under the apprehension of Impropriety in the liberty I took of adressing you, in november ultmo, but remaining Ignorant whether resting as I Decd requested leave to rest on you for Settlement of the business the subject of two repeated memorials to Congress be agreeable to you:—the difficulties which this uncertainty set me under with regard to the Committee of claims to whom my memorials stand refered since the begining of this Congress (I having consequent to the wish Imparted to you and to the dependance I place in your goodness, begged the chairman of that Committee would delay their proceeding upon) forces on me the necessity to renew the Sollicitation to you.

From dispositions testified by my last address I promised to myself that such Settlement as I feel entitled to wait from government, might have been effected in some other ways than through a Committee of claims, which (besides, that, I fear from their having once already reported against the memorial) truly to my mind made it a disgracefull reflection that a recompense merited should be made necessary to claim.

of this however, Sir, your Judgement best will determine, and I only advert to the circumstance to speak of my embarrasement on the Subject and how

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seeing the session of Congress fast approaching to its close now add disquietude to the apprehension of having mistaken in the manner of late request to you—well persuaded nevertheless but you will excuse where the Intention was purely to prove my respect and esteem of your natural disposition:—encouraged by this hope I have here recalled to your mind all matters before stated—and beg you to believe that the request which I made to you appeared to me proper because more flattering to my ambition to obtain my prayer through your Favour

with great respect I have the honor to be

Sir—your Excellency most obedient and—humble Servant.

P. Charles L'Enfant

HIS EXCELLENCY THOMAS JEFFERSON *President of the United States*

P.S. having your Statement inclosed in the late address.

[Ms., *Jefferson Papers*, Library of Congress.]